MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The Taluk Committees can also act in co-operation. There is no reference in the G. O. to the Taluk Committees functioning as such. There is nothing preventing them from functioning in active collaboration with the taluk officials.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the member is aware that there is no reference to the Taluk Committees in the G. O. empowering the Tahsildars to appoint local committees for the distribution of rice and tapioca?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The Kara Committees must have transformed themselves into Taluk Committees.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know the officers who are appointed for the distribution of rice and tapioca in the rural areas?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The Village School master and other prominent persons.

PRESIDENT: The idea was, as far as possible, to eliminate the Revenue, Police and Excise officers from the distribution of rice and paddy. Anchal office officials and school masters of the locality have been entrusted with this work. The Kara Committees are entrusted with the distribution of paddy and the Taluk Committees have nothing to do with it.

Iron Bridge at Quilon.

63. ***MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how long it is since the Iron Bridge at Quilon became unsafe for heavy traffic; and

(*b*) whether any estimate has been prepared for repairing the same?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Irrigation and Miscellaneous*):

(*a*) From the beginning of 1114 M. E.

(*b*) Yes.

Kariyamanikkapuram Village Temple Tank.

64. ***MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Kariyamanikkapuram Village Temple Tank is maintained by Government;

(*b*) whether non-Hindus have any right to bathe in the said tank; and

(*c*) whether any complaint has been lodged before the Idalakudy Police Station that it is being used by non-Hindus?

MR. J. C. CHACKO: (*a*) The expenditure on account of the maintenance is met from the Devaswom Fund.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No complaint was lodged in the Idalakudy Station but one complaint was lodged in the Kottar Police Station in 1117.

Export of banana flour.

65. ***MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether banana flour is being exported from the State;

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[Mr. K. Kunju Panickar.]

(*b*) whether banana is an alternative food in the absence of rice ; and

(*c*) whether by the export of banana flour, the price of banana has increased enormously ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is a valuable supplementary food material but not an alternative for rice.

(*c*) The price has increased.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI : May I know whether tapioca may be used as a substitute for rice ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : May be used as a supplement.

Paddy Seeds.

66. ***MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI :** Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to introduce into Travancore selected and new varieties of paddy seeds with a view to improving the cultivation ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : A *statement of the measures taken and the results thereof is placed on the table.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI : There are three varieties of seeds which have been proving successful and satisfactory and good results were obtained. May I know in which parts of Travancore cultivators use these varieties ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : They are used largely in South Travancore.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI : Has there been any advice given to people in the South or North Travancore or Central Travancore about the use of these seeds ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Yes, Sir.

Import of Sugar.

67. ***MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Mavelikara cum Kunnattur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state the total quantity of sugar arranged to be imported into this country ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : A quota of 4,000 tons has been allotted to this State for a period of 12 months, excluding the quantity expected to be produced by the Travancore Sugars and Chemicals Ltd., which is estimated at 3,000 tons per annum. Negotiations are being carried on to increase the quota on the basis of the State's actual requirements.

Text Books.

68. ***MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the names of the text books accepted by them for teaching in English and Vernacular Schools from Edavom 1115, 1116 and 1117 with the names of the authors and the press publishing them ;

* *Vide* appendix 1.

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